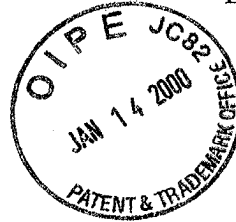


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1655  
Examiner: Jeanine Enewold

7/2/00  
B. Webb  
2/8/00

In Re Application of:  
Inventor(s) : Ellen M. Heath *et al.*  
Serial No. : 09/241,636  
Filed : February 2, 1999  
For : PROCESSES FOR ISOLATING, AMPLIFYING AND  
CHARACTERIZING DNA  
Attorney Docket No. : 5253



**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE**

This is a response to the outstanding office action, dated July 14, 1999. A petition for a three month extension of time, up to and including January 14, 2000, accompanies this response.

**PRIORITY**

Please amend the specification by adding the following to the end of the text on page 1:

a1  
This application claims priority from U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/135,496, filed February 2, 1998, entitled "Processes for Isolating and Amplifying DNA," and U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/135,495, filed February 2, 1998, entitled "Processes for Isolating and Characterizing DNA."